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May 23, 2018

The Honorable David J. Glawe
Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Under Secretary Glawe:

According to Politico¹, following yesterday morning's election security briefing to House Members, Secretary Nielsen was asked about the January 2017 Intelligence Community Assessment (ICA), specifically its key judgment that Vladimir Putin and the Russian government sought to help then-candidate Donald Trump's chances of winning the 2016 election. In response, the Secretary reportedly said, "I do not believe that I've seen that conclusion that the specific intent was to help President Trump win...I'm not aware of that."

The Department of Homeland Security plays a central role in providing cybersecurity and other related assistance to state election officials as they prepare for the 2018 midterms. It is critical for the public to know with confidence that the Department is relying on the objective intelligence work product and analysis, rather than any political sentiment, as it continues offering support for election security.

It is therefore deeply troubling that Secretary Nielsen would claim not to have "seen" such a central judgment of the ICA – one that has been reaffirmed repeatedly since January 2017, including most recently by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

In order to clarify the facts, and given your role as the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, we respectfully ask that you answer following questions:

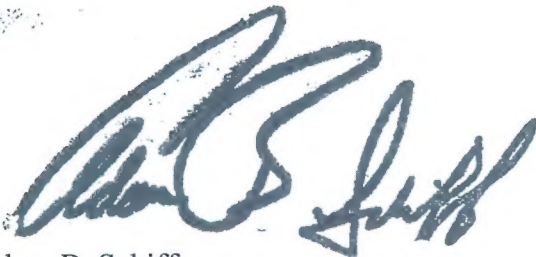
¹ Kyle Cheney, "DHS chief hasn't 'seen' intel finding that Russia aimed to help Trump," Politico, May 22, 2018.

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- 1) To the best of your knowledge, is it correct that, at the time she was asked about the ICA by reporters, Secretary Nielsen had not in fact “seen” the ICA’s judgment that the Russian government aspired to help then-candidate Trump’s election chances?
- 2) Was Secretary Nielsen briefed, by the Office of Intelligence and Analysis or other IC elements, on the contents of the 2017 ICA, including all key judgments, upon her confirmation as Secretary of Homeland Security on December 5, 2017? And if not, why not?
- 3) Was then-Secretary John Kelly briefed by the Office of Intelligence and Analysis or other IC elements on the contents of the 2017 ICA, including all key judgments, upon his confirmation as Secretary of Homeland Security on January 20, 2017? And if not, why not?
- 4) Was Secretary Nielsen, in her capacity as chief of staff to then-Secretary Kelly, briefed by the Office of Intelligence and Analysis or other IC elements on the contents of the 2017 ICA, including all key judgments, when she joined the Department in January 2017? And if not, why not?
- 5) Are you aware of any other circumstance in which Secretary Nielsen, during service as Secretary or in prior government service, was briefed on the ICA judgments with respect to the Kremlin’s preference for and/or effort to help candidate Trump?
- 6) Has any DHS assessment about the 2016 election been provided to the White House or the President that relies on conclusions other than those found in the ICA? And if so, why?

We would appreciate your response to these questions in writing by no later than the close of business on May 25, 2018. Should you have any questions, please contact the Committee at (202) 225-7590.

Sincerely,



Adam B. Schiff
Ranking Member
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence



André Carson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats